

this, the producer cannot expect anything but second- and third-grade prices on the critical London market. Eggs, as in the case of any other exportable commodity, practically always involve a loss when they are marketed in poor condition.

#### POINTS FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION.

The points to which special attention should be given by producers in their endeavour to establish an export trade are as follows:—

*Size.*—Eggs to be not less than 2 oz. in weight, nor more than 2 oz. 2 dr.

*Freshness.*—Eggs to be strictly fresh. To ensure freshness they should be collected at least daily, or, better still, twice daily. Especially is the latter advisable when any hens are broody. On no account forward eggs for export which have been found in stolen nests outside. They may be fit for home consumption but not for export.

*Where to keep.*—Keep the eggs, after collecting, in a cool, dry place that is free from objectionable odours. Eggs are very susceptible to taint when kept in a room with vegetables, &c., and every care should be taken to prevent this.

*Regular Marketing.*—Eggs should be sent to the collecting-depot twice weekly, and oftener if circumstances permit. Remember that an egg commences to deteriorate from the day it is laid: A new-laid egg is full, the air-cell being scarcely perceptible. With age the air-cell increases in size. All eggs with the air-cell dried down to more than  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. in depth will be rejected for export. Producers should never hold over eggs, as in doing so the eggs are apt to seriously depreciate in value and be rejected as stale eggs.

*Cleanliness.*—This means clean dry nests. For the nests use clean dry hay, straw, or other suitable material; renew the material frequently, and always whenever it becomes wet or soiled.

*No Washing.*—Eggs for export should not be washed, as it reduces their keeping-quality. It also removes the desirable natural bloom, giving the eggs an old stale appearance. Egg-washing can be reduced to a minimum by keeping the birds under cover when the runs are wet, and by keeping the nests clean and sanitary, together with frequently collecting the eggs. Any dirt on an egg when it is collected should be at once removed by means of a dry cloth. If this method fails, a slightly dampened but not wet cloth may be used. A good appearance suggests high-class quality, which is an essential in securing best returns and establishing a profitable connection on a market. A good article should look a good article. It is important that no egg be exported with even a spot of dirt on it.

*Infertility.*—Only non-fertilized eggs should be packed for export, as a fertile egg will commence to develop and deteriorate much sooner than a sterile egg. This involves the removal of all males from the females. The male bird is not necessary for the production of eggs; more and better eggs will be produced without him.

*Shell-quality.*—The quality of the shell has a considerable influence on the keeping-quality of an egg. A thick-shelled egg is most desirable